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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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SUBJECT

Status of Kech, the Baubuerer, and the Karlshorst Compound

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. A large number of Kech employees were dismissed in late August and early September. The reduction in force was allegedly the result of the finished size of the compound and the decreased activities of the Kech Bauburo (construction office). Those employees of this organization who had not been dismissed were assured of continued employment in the compound for at least six months by Nikitin, chief of Kech, when some of the employees who were not dismissed inquired whether a further reduction in force would take place.
2. Construction work at the Soviet Embassy had been completed as of 10 September 1954, but both Grishin the engineer of the Kech Bauburo, and Nikitin still went to Unter den Linden frequently in order to supervise some of the outside firms who were still working there installing additional equipment.
3. The German chief of Kech, Richard Kupsch, was dismissed effective 15 September 1954, and stopped working on 4 September. He stated that he would open a language school, together with the interpreter of HW 1, Alfred Jaszyk.
4. Ekkehard Kupsch, son of Richard Kupsch, was laid off at the same time and turned in his propusk (pass).
5. Sophie Fuerch was in sole charge of the Kech Bauburo, since Fritz Hoffmann, the SED secretary, received notice at the same time as Kupsch. Rita Bandtke, the Kech Bauburo interpreter, was on leave but was to return to her job on or about 15 September. She and Fuerch were to handle all the work in the Kech Bauburo. Fuerch was not only receiving all requests for work orders but handling the wage accounting for the Bauburo. The bookkeeper of the Rashotny office, Armin Kerpen, was assisting her to some extent.
6. The new headquarters of the Kech organization is located at Koenigswinterstrasse 12, a three-story structure. The Rashotny Office is located in the same building, and is manned by Armin Kerpen, who occupies quarters in the rear of the building.

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7. Bezirk 1 of Kech was dissolved and all personnel were dismissed. Deutsch (fnu), the chief, was fired and went to work in a private firm. Some of the workers found employment with other Kech organizations and others found work with the Kommandatura, the motor pool and other Soviet organizations.
8. As of 9 September 1954, the three HV offices and the Kech hotel office were in the old locations and nothing had been heard of an impending move.
9. A new procedure whereby all work orders have to be cleared through Kech headquarters before they are accepted at the Baubureau went into force on 1 September 1954. Heretofore, the work orders were called in by phone from individuals or offices concerned with the repair work.
10. The Kech Baubureau will stay in its present location between Grafenauer Weg and Lueselerstrasse.
11. Helmut Ende and Walter Jurkat are the two new BGL officials in the Kech headquarters. They have a new office consisting of one room opposite the Hotel on Koenigswinterstrasse (probably number 13).
12. Meta Hase, the former BGL chief, was dismissed and started to work in a private firm as a bookkeeper.
13. Nadia Miroshina was still working as an interpreter at the Kech headquarters at Koenigswinterstrasse 12.
14. The following appears to be the situation as of 10 September 1954. Kech, and its subsections, HV1, HV 2, HV 31, the Hotel, and the Baubureau, will be retained in its present form for some time to come. It appears that the Kech Baubureau will be forced to take on several new workers, particularly electricians, as the work load is too heavy for the present complement of help. A new German chief will be employed or appointed from the ranks of the workers now employed, since, after the dismissal of Kupsch, there has been no technical supervision. In the near future, for the sake of good office routine, a new employee must be installed in the Kech Baubureau, as neither Bandtke nor Fuerch will be able to handle the office work. The Karlshorst compound as such will not be given up completely, but, since the major function of the compound as the center of SKK has ceased, it will continue to function primarily as a housing area.

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